

**Little Black Pond General Biological Survey #519029:
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Little Black Pond (C-P130A) is a five-acre water located in the NYSDEC Fish Creek Campground in Franklin County. The maximum depth is 27 feet, the mean depth is 13.1 feet and there was sufficient dissolved oxygen for trout to eight feet in the spring 2019 survey. Little Black Pond was first stocked with brook trout in 1952. Acid/base chemistry has been an issue here and this seepage water has been limed eight times, the last liming occurring in 1986. This water was dropped from the regional liming program after the FEIS specified no more than 50% of a water’s shoreline could be surrounded by sphagnum bog. A fisheries survey was last performed here in 1980 when six brook trout were collected, but chemistry data was collected annually from 1988 to 1995.

In 2019 water samples were drawn for analysis from depths of five and 20 feet. The pH at five feet was very low but was much improved in the deeper sample, the same pattern seen in 1995 (Table 1.).

Table 1. Little Black Pond water chemistry variables 1995 and 2019.

Year	Depth (feet)	Air Equilibrated pH (pH units)	Acid Neutralizing Capacity (µeq/L)	Conductivity (µmhos/cm)	Silica mg L ⁻¹	Sodium mg L ⁻¹
1995	5	4.72	-10.6	17.4		
	16	5.33	11.0	16.2		
2019	5	4.72	-9.1	10.6	0.1	0.09
	20	5.86	27.2	12.4	0.9	0.10

In 2019, one 150-ft experimental gill net, a 30-ft minnow net, and a minnow trap were set overnight. Three brook trout were collected during the 2019 survey, and another 12.9 (330 mm) trout was observed (Figure 1.). Given that three and four-year-old brook trout are present, it seems that better chemical conditions for supporting brook trout continue to exist somewhere in the water column despite the acidic surface chemistry. Little Black Pond has remained a brook trout monoculture and produces some good angling. There are obvious signs of angler use at the pond, which is accessed very easily from an extremely popular NYSDEC campground. Little Black Pond is stocked with 200 Temiscamie x Domestic hybrid brook trout annually and this should continue; but the pond should be resurveyed in about five years to make sure that brook trout are continuing to survive here.

